

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yun et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,139). In response, Applicants amended independent claims 1 and 7 to clarify that the rear cover has an extended portion provided with a hole through which the screw passes, and wherein the extended portion is formed between the side wall of the frame and the side wall of the bezel, and respectfully traverse.

The Office Action asserts that the bezel recited in independent claims 1 and 7 of the present application corresponds to the first support member 190 of Yun, which is provided on the rear surface side of the liquid crystal panel 300. (See FIG. 6 of Yun). However, this is incorrect because the bezel in the present invention corresponds to the front case 520, as shown in FIG. 7 of Yun. Since the front case 520 does not have any threaded holes, a screw cannot connect the side wall of the bezel to the frame. Additionally, Yun fails to disclose or suggest the extending portion of the rear cover, as recited in the amended claims, which extends from a rear surface of the light guiding plate toward the lower end of the frame. For these reasons, the §102 rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to dependent claims 6 and 15, the Office Action asserts that the control circuit board connected to the liquid crystal panel is located between a side wall of the bezel and the frame in FIG. 6 of Yun. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. FIG. 6 of Yun fails to show a control circuit board, or a circuit board that is arranged between a bezel and a frame, as recited in claims 6 and 15. For this reason, the rejection of claim 6 and 15 should be withdrawn.

More specifically, the independent claims of the present invention are amended to clarify that the side wall of the bezel, the extended portion of the rear cover, and the frame are secured together on sides of the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate. Accordingly, an advantage of the present invention is that stress generated by a tightening of the screw can be spread over an increased number of components, unlike Yun. Thus, the bezel in the rear cover reliably spreads any stress to a large area, which improves the strength of the fixing mechanism located on sides of the liquid crystal panel and the light guiding plate. For all these reasons, withdrawal of the §102 rejection of claims 1-9 and 11-15 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7, 10, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Okamoto et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2001/0050732). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection because the cited reference fails to disclose (or suggest), among other things, a fixing member securing a portion of the rear cover and a side wall of the bezel together. The Office Action asserts that the third member 24 of Okamoto corresponds to the fixing member of the present invention. The Office Action further asserts that the third member 24 secures a side wall of the second frame 22 (corresponding to the bezel of the present invention) and a portion of a first frame 20 (corresponding to the rear cover of the present invention) together. However, this is incorrect. The member that actually secures the second frame 22 and the first frame 20 together is a screw 26, and not the third member 24. The third member 24 is merely interposed between the second frame 22 and the first frame 20 to allow securing of first frame and the second frame by the screw. Since the third

member 24 does not correspond to the fixing member of the present invention, the rejection should be withdrawn, which is respectfully requested.

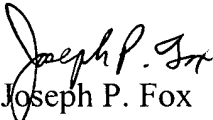
New claims 16-21 are added and considered allowable for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claims 1 and 7, and also for the features that they recite. Applicants earnestly solicit allowance of new claims 16-21.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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